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The shipment of these articles from any port in Japan will only be permitted upon the production of satisfactory evidence of their origin and preparation outside of any area in which infection exists.

For the purposes of this circular, the occurrence of a single case of plague, or the detection of the plague bacillus in rats, in any given district, will constitute infection of that locality.

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

Approved:

J. F. GOWEY,
Consul-General of United States.

A true copy.

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Reports from Yokohama, Kobe, and Osaka.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *January 26, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the outbreak of plague in Japan appears to be, at least for the present, arrested. At Kobe, where it first became epidemic, there has been no case since December 23, and, at Osaka, where, at the date of my last return, January 12, pneumonic plague was actively epidemic, no case has been met with since the 13th instant.

The official summing up of undoubted cases, all of which seem to have been fatal, is now: Kobe, 19; Osaka, 52; single scattering cases elsewhere, 5; total, 76.

The sudden cessation of the disease at Osaka coincided with the onset of unusually cold weather, which still continues.

The efforts of the sanitary authorities to control and eradicate the malady have been most energetic and intelligent, and the native medical profession deserves the highest praise for its prompt and brave response to the call of the Government. At Osaka, for instance, immediately after the attack of the 3 physicians and their families, reported in my letter of January 12, in answer to the appeal of the city officials, 175 physicians offered their services. For the general work of the sanitary bureau of the home department, too, involving direct and constant connection with the infection, there has been no lack of volunteers, and in both cases for a very inadequate compensation.

The sanitary officers in all the towns and cities of central Japan, and, in fact, more or less throughout the country, are continuing their precautionary measures, including house-to-house inspection, enforcement of thorough cleansing in every respect, and the encouragement of the destruction of rats, for which a price is paid upon delivery at the police stations. From the 15th to the 23d instant some 3,000 of these rodents were killed in Tokyo and the campaign still goes on.

Such general, and, probably, well founded fear of the awakening of the epidemic in the coming spring is felt that the sanitary work now in progress is likely to be carried on.

The plague in Formosa, which appeared to be, for some months, in abeyance, has recently increased, but I am unable to obtain statistics.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.